
From: on behalf of Philip, Jeff
Sent: Wednesday, October 12, 2016 12:16 PM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: Knudsen, Laura
Subject: RE: Sauvie Island community groups response to the EPA's McLerran letter

Thank you, Ms. (b) (6)

I will get this to him today.

Jeff Philip
Public Affairs & Community Engagement Manager,
U.S. EPA, Region 10
206-553-1465
Pronouns: he/him/his

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, October 12, 2016 12:05 PM
To: Philip, Jeff <Philip.Jeff@epa.gov>; Haggerty, Phylicia <Phylicia.Haggerty@mail.house.gov>;
chair@portlandharborcag.info; shepherd.pete@deq.state.or.us; Sen.BetsyJohnson@state.or.us;
Rep.BradWitt@state.or.us; Knudsen, Laura <Knudsen.Laura@epa.gov>
Subject: Sauvie Island community groups response to the EPA's McLerran letter

Dear Mr. Philip,

(b) (6), Master, Sauvie Island Grange #840, and (b) (6), Co-President, Sauvie Island Women's Grange, have asked me to send you via email the Sauvie Island community groups' response to the letter from Mr. McLerran that you emailed to us, as we do not have his email address.

We also cced the letter to you.

Thank you,

(b) (6)

October 11, 2016

Mr. Dennis McLerran

EPA Regional Administrator, Region 10

1200 6th Avenue, Suite 900, Seattle WA 98101-3140

Dear Mr. McLerran,

Thank you for your response (received October 7th, via email) to our August 16 letter to the EPA regarding possible Portland Harbor Superfund Site (PHSS) toxic contamination of the downstream waters encircling Sauvie Island (the Multnomah Channel and the Columbia River), and the resulting possible toxic contamination of the drinking-water wells on our Island.

As we wrote in our original letter to Administrator McCarthy, we want to know what testing for PHSS toxic contaminants has already been done in the stretches of the Multnomah Channel and the Columbia River that encircle our Island. According to your letter, the EPA's "responsiveness summary" will address "**additional** sampling and study on potential contaminants' effects" on the Channel, and we appreciate that. What we would like to know now is what testing for toxic contaminants has **already been done** on the sediment and water in the stretches of the Multnomah Channel and the Columbia River that encircle our Island. We cannot know what further testing needs to be done until we know what testing has already been done, and what the results of that testing found.

If either the Multnomah Channel or the Columbia River have toxic contaminants in their sediment or water, then there is a possibility that one or more wells on the Island have been contaminated by toxins. In that case, the toxic contamination of one or more wells on Sauvie Island would be the direct result of the toxic contaminants found at the PHSS, and should be covered under the EPA's SuperFund program, as well as the Safe Drinking Water Act. If this is not the case, we would like to know why possible toxic effects from the PHSS on Sauvie Island would not be addressed.

In your letter, you say that the “additional sampling and study on potential contaminants’ effects on the Multnomah Channel” falls under the purview of the PHSS proposed plan, but you do not mention PHSS responsibilities regarding the possible toxic contamination of Sauvie Island well-water as a result of possible Multnomah Channel or Columbia River toxic contamination. Instead, you refer us to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) for water quality testing.

The OHA (reference: Dave Leland conversation on 10.10.16) records test data that includes only two of the many toxic contaminants found at the PHSS—PAH and PCB—and only for community public water systems, of which there are two on Sauvie Island. This is good news: in two well-systems neither PAH nor PCB was found. However, since we already know that the State DEQ does not test for toxic substances in our area, that leaves 98% of the toxic contaminants untested for in 99% of Sauvie Island wells—unless the EPA has done such testing. This gets us back to our initial question in our August 23 letter to the EPA: Are toxic substances present in Sauvie Island wells and water systems, and in the stretches of the Multnomah Channel and Columbia River encircling our Island? It looks like only the EPA can answer this question for us.

We were told by an aide to Rep. Bonamici (Phylicia Haggerty) that the EPA told her that the **EPA has already tested wells on Sauvie Island for toxic contaminants**. Is this true? If it is, we want to know the methods and results of that testing. We submitted a list of questions regarding this testing to the aide, who tells us that she delivered the list to her EPA contact, and that we will receive a letter with answers to our questions from the EPA—via snail-mail—before an October 19th meeting we have scheduled to discuss the information we receive from the EPA. We look forward to receiving those answers, as we cannot know what further testing needs to be done until we know what testing has already been done, and what the results of that testing found.

One paragraph in your letter is confusing to us, and we ask that you provide us with a clear statement of how the testing for toxic contaminants which we want to be sure has been done fits into this timeline:

The EPA will formally respond to the comments you conveyed in your letter in our responsiveness summary, which the EPA will issue at the time it signs the final PHSS cleanup plan (also called the Record of Decision).

The words “summary,” “final,” and “Record of Decision” seem to imply that there will be no opportunity for the Sauvie Island community (or any private citizen) to apply for redress or consideration after the Record of Decision is signed, and you do not mention an EPA channel for coordination of information with community groups such as ours before the Record of Decision is signed. Does this mean that, as far as the EPA is concerned, Sauvie Island community groups cannot get answers to the questions we have asked until it is too late to do anything about it?

We also asked for, but have not yet received, the name and title of an EPA representative—a person who is high enough up in the bureaucracy to **answer our questions thoroughly**—to attend the October 19th meeting on the Island. We will ask Ms. Knudsen for her help in getting this person’s name and title, so we can include it in our publicity to Island residents.

Please note the correct mailing addresses and email addresses for the Grange and the Women's Grange, below.

Thank you for your help with our concerns.

(b) (6) Master, Sauvie Island Grange #840

(b) (6)

Sauvie Island Grange #840, 22700 NW Reeder Rd., Portland OR 97231

(b) (6), Co-President, Sauvie Island Women's Grange

(b) (6)

Sauvie Island Women's Grange (c/o (b) (6)), 17757 NW Sauvie Island Road, Portland OR 97231

cc:

(b) (6) (b) (6) and (b) (6) (b) (6) Co-Presidents, and members (b) (6) Sauvie Island Women's Grange—17757 NW Sauvie Island Road, Portland OR 97231

(b) (6), President, and members, Sauvie Island Community Association—PO Box 8354, Portland OR 97233; communityassociation@sauvieisland.org

Tim Couch, Manager, and Dave Fazio, Chair, and the Board, Sauvie Island Drainage Improvement Company—29264 NW Sauvie Island Rd., Portland OR 97231; tim@sidrainage.org

Pastor (b) (6)—Sauvie Island Community Church; (b) (6)

Robert Wiley—wileyrob@pacifier.com

Phylcia Haggerty, District Representative for Rep. Bonamici—Phylcia.Haggerty@mail.house.gov

Jim Robison, Chair, Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group—chair@portlandharborcag.info

Pete Shepherd, Interim Director, State of Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality—shepherd.pete@deq.state.or.us

Governor Kate Brown—900 Court Street, Suite 160, Salem OR 97301-4047

Sen. Jeff Merkley—121 SW Salmon Street, Suite 1400, Portland OR 97204

Sen. Ron Wyden—911 NE 11th Avenue, Suite 630, Portland OR 97232

Sen. Betsy Johnson—Sen.BetsyJohnson@state.or.us

Rep. Brad Witt—Rep.BradWitt@state.or.us

Jeff Philip, Manager, Public Affairs & Community Engagement Unit—Philip.Jeff@epa.gov

Laura Knudsen, Community Involvement Coordinator, EPA—knudsen.laura@epa.gov